

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A protein binding assay for measuring inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) in a sample employing as reagents a conjugate of IP₃, a detectable label joined through a bond or linker at the 2-hydroxyl position of said IP₃, and as a binding protein a ~~truncated~~ 226 – 578 amino acid extracellular portion of ~~an~~ mouse inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate receptor (IP₃R) having at least about 200 times the affinity for IP₃ than the intact IP₃R, wherein said conjugate and IP₃ in the sample compete for binding to said binding protein and the amount of bound or unbound conjugate will be related to the number of binding proteins bound by IP₃ in said sample, said method comprising:
- combining in an assay medium said sample, said conjugate and said binding protein and incubating said mixture for sufficient time for complex formation of IP₃ and said conjugate with said binding protein; and
- detecting the bound or unbound label as a measure of the IP₃ present in the sample.
2. (Original): A protein binding assay according to Claim 1, wherein said assay is in a homogeneous format.
3. (Original): A protein binding assay according to Claim 1, wherein said sample is a cellular lysate, and wherein said cellular lysate has been treated to block kinases and phosphatases and prepare said sample for said assay.

DO NOT ENTER.
SH 9/4/07